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Mr. William Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 222 Mail Stop 1170
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Request for Leave to File Late-filed Pleading
in IB Docket No. 96-261, International Settlement Rates
("Settlements Benchmark Proceeding")

Dear Mr. Caton:

On behalf of Viatel, Inc. ("Viatel"), enclosed for submission in the record of the above-captioned proceeding are two copies of Viatel's Comments filed July 9, 1997, in *Rules and Policies on Foreign Participation in the U.S. Telecommunications Market*, IB Docket No. 97-142 ("WTO Proceeding").

These Comments, timely filed in the WTO Proceeding, also pertain to issues being addressed in the Settlements Benchmark Proceeding. In fact, it was only in the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in the WTO Proceeding that the Commission made clear that certain issues raised in that proceeding, which are the subject of Viatel's Comments, would be decided in the Settlements Benchmark Proceeding, in which the main pleading cycle had already closed. Consequently, Viatel respectfully requests leave to submit these comments as late-filed pleading in IB Docket No. 96-261. Because of the widespread participation in, and the overlap of issues addressed in, both proceedings, and the opportunity for parties to file replies to Viatel's Comments in the WTO Proceeding, Viatel believes that no party will be prejudiced by grant of this request.

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KELLEY DRYE & WARREN LLP

Mr. William Caton, Acting Secretary

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Please direct any questions to me.

Respectfully submitted,

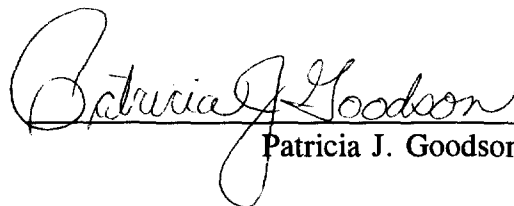
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Pisciotto", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aileen A. Pisciotto
Counsel to Viatel, Inc.

cc: All parties (see attached service list)
International Transcription Service

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Patricia J. Goodson, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Request for Leave to File Late-Filed Pleading has been sent via first class mail, postage prepaid, to the attached list this 11th day of July, 1997.


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